(d) The budgeted loss for 1996-97 is Rs. 230 crores.

(e) To improve its financial performance Air India is taking steps to intensify its marketing efforts, augment capacity, reduce non operating costs and to improve its product, image and on time performance.

Pending Mining Lease

203. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether several mining lease licences of various States are pending clearance by the Union Government since long;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) Mineral Concessions are granted as per provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder. Proposals for grant of mineral concessions are received by the Central Government for minerals specified under the Schedule I of the aforesaid Act from respective State Governments and are processed and disposed of as per provisions of law. All efforts are being made to expedite approval of Central Government. 462 cases have been cleared during the year 1995-96. In certain cases the proposals received from the State Government are incomplete. In such cases, State Government are asked to furnish completed information for disposal.

Survey for Tumkur-Sira-Hiriyur-Chitradurga Railway Line

204. SHRI P. KODANDARAMAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey for Tumkur-Sira-Hiriyur-Chitradurga railway line has been conducted to link Davanagers directly;

(b) if so, the present position of the project; and

(c) the time by which the above project is likely to be completed.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The survey has been taken up.

(b) and (c). Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

[Translation]

Temporary Telephone Connections

205. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Asthai telephone ke liye sthai intjar" appearing in "Navbharat Times" dated September 9,1996;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) the action taken against the earring officials;

(d) whether any new plan has been formulated by the Government to provide temporary telephone connections expeditiously;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (f) Sir, the information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Demand and Production of Concrete Sleeper Factories

206. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the demand and production of concrete sleeper factories, year-wise during each of the last three years in the country;

(b) the location wise details of concrete sleeper factories functioning in the country at present;

(c) the factories out of them owned by the Government and private concern separately;

(d) whether there is any need of further sleeper factories; and

(e) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The demand and production of concrete sleepers factories for the last three years is furnished below :

(Fig. in lakhs)

Year	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Demand	67.10	59.10	56.00
Productions	67.50	61.60	56.40